

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP2004/006606

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F9/46 G06F9/445

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 740 438 A (RATCLIFF BRUCE HENRY ET AL) 14 April 1998 (1998-04-14) abstract column 1, line 12 - line 32 column 2, line 23 - column 2, line 67 column 3, line 19 - line 62 column 5, line 53 - column 6, line 35 column 7, line 5 - line 65 figure 6	1,4,5, 8-16, 18-20
Y	----- -/-	2,3,6,7, 17

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

S document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
19 November 2004	02/12/2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax (+31-70) 340-3018	Authorized officer Skomorowski, M

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 1 054 322 A (HITACHI LTD) 22 November 2000 (2000-11-22) abstract paragraph '0002! - paragraph '0003! paragraph '0006! column 6, line 34 - column 7, line 21	2,3,17
Y	EP 1 059 582 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 13 December 2000 (2000-12-13) abstract paragraph '0005! paragraph '0011! - paragraph '0012! paragraph '0016!	6,7

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Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)			Publication date
US 5740438	A 14-04-1998	NONE			
EP 1054322	A 22-11-2000	JP 2000330806 A			30-11-2000
		EP 1054322 A2			22-11-2000
		US 6615303 B1			02-09-2003
EP 1059582	A 13-12-2000	JP 2000347883 A			15-12-2000
		CN 1276562 A			13-12-2000
		EP 1059582 A2			13-12-2000